

THE WORK WITH THE

*BUTTER of ANTIMONY*



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A 1980 **RAMS** PRODUCTION

# THE WORK WITH THE BUTTER OF ANTIMONY

*As communicated verbally to Mr. Hand by a possessor*

from the files of: SIGISMOND BACSTROM

Prepare a butter of ♂ carefully from the martial stekated regulus with well prepared ♀ sublimate. Rectify the butter. When pure, expose to the attractions of the atmosphere in the lunar rays. The next day, distill off by a very gentle heat, all the humidity that will easily arise.

Expose again, the residuum, to the lunar rays and again distill as before, but with a more gentle heat. For example, if the first distillation required the heat of three wicks in the lamp, the second will not require more than two. Repeat these attractions and distillations until the humidity that is distilled over carries no more antimony with it.

It is singular that the liquor carried over by the 2nd distillation carries with it as much ♂ as the liquor of the first attraction. This is easily ascertained by precipitating the ♂ from equal quantities by using distilled water. To carry over all that the subject can yield may require 9, 10, or 11 attractions and distillations.

The products of the different distillations are then to be united in a proper globular glass or glasses & exposed to a heat favorable for the putrefaction of the subject: a very gentle vaporous heat is all that is needed. This part of the process, according to the possessor, is that which requires the greatest attention. Blackness will come on and at length the subject will

exhibit a certain sign by which it may be known that the period has arrived for the

### SEPARATION OF THE ELEMENTS

There will be a kind of bubbling up around the edge of the blackness like the bubbling up of boiling pitch. A certain kind of glutinous looking matter, which resembles the matter that issues from the sores of a horse, will shew itself. This is a sign that the matter is now ready for distillation.

### DISTILLATION

Apply a head to the vessel and distill it with a very gentle heat. A colourless fluid will at first pass over. After the distillation has been carried on for some time, a coloured fluid will begin to come over. The receiver should then be changed and the red oil kept separate from the white.

### IMBIBATION

The white oil, or mercury, is now to be animated by pouring it, in small quantities, upon the caput mortuum, from which it was distilled after the putrefaction. The quantity should not be above an eighth part of that of the earth. Digest in a gentle heat till the earth appears to be dry as it were, and again imbibe and digest. Repeat imbibation and digestion until the earth refuses to dry up anymore.

### FURTHER PROCEDURES

The matter is now to be distilled again in a gentle heat. A colourless fluid will pass over carrying with it a saline substance--- the true Salt of Nature.

You have now obtained the true *Mercury of the Philosophers* which only requires a due digestion to make it pass through putrefaction and become the fixed white medicine. When this is obtained one or more of the glasses may be imbibed with the red oil, by little and little, without suffering them to cool, and the work (the glasses being well closed) will by digestion go on to the fixed red medicine.

FINIS

(NOTE: the following is a handwritten letter which has been inserted into the ms. at this point by Sig. Bacstrom.)

Another one makes  $\text{♁} \text{♂} \text{♂}$ . He makes  $\text{♁} \text{♂} \text{♂}$ , 1 part  $\text{♂}$ , 2 of  $\text{♂}$ . Then takes as much pure  $\text{♀}$  as he had  $\text{♂}$ , melts  $\text{♂}$  with  $\text{♁} \text{♂} \text{♂}$  and adds again 2 parts  $\text{♂}$ , melts fulminates and purifies with  $\text{♁}$ . With this  $\text{♁} \text{♂} \text{♂}$  and  $\text{♀}$  corrosive he makes his butter, which is the magnet which attracts the  $\text{♁}$ . The heat to distill off the  $\text{♁}$  must not exceed a warm hand.

Note: In a previous ms., another author makes  $\text{♁} \text{♂} \text{♂}$  but mixes in pure verdigris instead of  $\text{♀}$ .

He attracts and distills til no more  $\text{♁}$  can be gotten. Then he rejects his spent Butter. This  $\text{♁}$  contained sublimed  $\text{♁}$  or  $\text{♀}$  volatile. These attracted volatile  $\text{♁}$  he digests in one vessel to putrefaction and the  $\text{♁}$  is gradually  $\text{♁}$  to the bottom. When putrefaction is over, he distills off his *philosophical S.V.*, then comes phlegm, the  $\text{♁}$  remaining. Mr. H. says the phlegm goes over first and what remains is the  $\text{♀}$  simplex. The Hermetical Triumph says the phlegm goes first and then follows the  $\text{♀}$  simplex. However, Mr. H. cohobates his  $\text{♀}$  simplex on the  $\text{♁}$ , and distills it over several times in order to extract the sophic  $\text{♁}$  or  $\text{♀}$  out of the  $\text{♁}$ . By these cohobations he distills over a *white* and *red* oil,  $\text{♀}$  simplex and duplex. He fixes the  $\text{♀}$  simplex upon the clarified  $\text{♁}$ , and digests to the white elixir, then imbibes this with  $\text{♀}$  duplex and digests to the red elixir. He did not speak of the calcination of the empty  $\text{♁}$  after extraction of red sophic  $\text{♀}$  or volatile  $\text{♁}$ .

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE WORK OF MR. HAND

NOTE: This ms. follows the other two works. It is slightly condensed in a few places but not so that any meaning would be altered.

NB. AVOID ALL FUMES OF ANTIMONY AS IT IS POISONOUS.

1. Prepare   , well purified.
2. Pound regulus under water to a powder. Dry carefully.
3. By  corrosive (*secret fire* of the philosophers), convert this antimony (their *green lion*) into Butter of  (the Eagle's Gluten).
4. Rectify butter again and again, til it leaves no feces or only a little white calx in the retort.
5. Expose butter in flat dishes to the air in serene nights, in March, April or May (*note: see "Mutus Liber"*). Distill off , and repeat, til no more will be attracted. By this means almost all of the butter may be carried over.
6. Rectify fluid several times, by gentle heat, til it leaves no feces in the retort. Each successive distillation takes less heat, till the heat of a hand will be almost sufficient.
7. Put on a blind head, set in heat for putrefaction. The heat being that a little more than the temperature of blood.  
(NOTE: at this point a footnote has been inserted, in Bacstroms hand but in a different color ink, perhaps indicating insertion at a later date. It says: The matter thus prepared and exposed to heat will never undergo a change, hence that which follows is nonsense)
8. Maintain uniform heat several weeks til matter appears thickish and black pitchlike scum appears on the surface.
9. Watch carefully til the matter shows a disposition to ascend the side of the glass and look for this sign. The matter will open itself in one or more places like an ugly sore. Now it is ready for separation of the Elements.
10. Remove the blind head, and without disturbing the matter or allowing the heat to go out, attach alembic & receiver. Raise heat slowly til vapors begin to pass into receiver. Maintain same heat til no more vapors will pass without a small increase of temperature, or til the drops, as they fall from the helm of alembic, appear whitish instead of limpid. This is a sign that the phlegm has been separated.
11. Change the receiver and maintain heat just sufficient to bring over the *white* liquid. At length the drops will begin to assume a reddish hue.
12. Change the receiver preserving the white carefully. Attend carefully to the heat and the *red water* or oil will come over. This is the  for imbibation for the red medicine after the white has been obtained.
13. Rectify the white oil to free it of any feces. Now imbibe the matter left in the glass with this white oil. Imbibe it gently maintaining a regular and moderate heat; in between each imbibation allow a few days that the matter may drink up the last added oil before more is added. The matter should never be drowned, only moistened.

14. When it can drink no more (and appears glossy like soft wax) apply an alembic and distill off the spirit.
15. When the spirit has been all separated, apply a blind head and increase the fire gradually, and a salt will sublime itself and adhere to the side of the body. *Watch this process carefully* that the fire may be put out as soon as the salt has sublimed itself, otherwise there is danger of it running down and vitrifying with the matter, in which case the whole labor is lost and one must start over anew.  
Stop the fire as soon as you perceive no more fumes are arising from the matter to increase the quantity of sublimate. In fact, it is better to risk leaving some of the salt in the matter than to go too far, and lose it all. If you think there may be more salt in the matter, you may separate it by another sublimation.
16. When all is cold, separate the salt carefully from the glass sweeping it out with a feather. It is very precious, therefore let none be lost.
17. On this salt pour a portion of the distilled spirit (see #15) sufficient to dissolve it, and then by alembic or retort, in gentle heat, distill what will pass over. The spirit will carry with it a portion of the salt. On what remains, pour more spirit to dissolve it, and distill again; this do till the spirit has been made to carry over the whole of the salt.

You have in your possession when this is accomplished, the true sophic mercury, the fountain of Count Trevisan, in which the King bathed himself.